



glad tidings

a newsletter of
the first spiritualist
church of salem

muriel karolides, pastor emeritus

the joy i find in spiritualism: part 2

by debbie leclair

I am very fortunate; I grew up knowing about Spirit and Spiritualism. My grandfather, Fred Davis, was a medium in the First Spiritualist Church of Salem.

I feel truly blessed with what I have seen and been told. I was invited to sit in one of my grandfather's circles. Attending that circle was an elderly gentleman named Nelson Perkins. During the circle, he jumped out of his seat and started speaking in a Native American tongue and doing some type of dance. It was truly amazing. That night, I also witnessed table tipping—or, more accurately, walking—that table was moving all over the place.

I have also sat in a couple of home circles with a fantastic trance medium, Sue Gehling. I have heard stories about Gladys Worsencroft and her guides, mediumship, Mignonette, and lessons from the teacher, and I was a little jealous that I was not a part of that era. But I have my own memories sitting with Sue—what a gift to be able to speak to spirit directly and get a response!

The love of spirit has been with me all through my life. As long as I can remember, my father had a Native American Indian doll by his bed. Ruth Olmstead, the founder of the First Spiritualist Church of Salem, gave it to my father when he was less than one year old. He had the doll for 68 years—it signified to him that Spirit loved ones and Spirit Healers were always around. It was his healing doll, and healing is what he would eventually need.

In 1996, I started attending church at my father's request. My father's wish was for me to carry on the knowledge of Spirit and maybe someday become the great medium that his father was.

While attending development classes, I met my husband, David LeClair, who is a Certified Spiritualist Healer. I am now living in the home where my grandparents sat with Rev. Gladys Worsencroft, daughter of founder Ruth Olmstead. Eventually, Dave opened our home for healing and started the Olmstead Healing Center. What wonderful people we have met! My father's Indian doll is now in our healing center. He was given that doll in the very same room that is now our healing center. It seems like it was meant to be.

...to be continued in March's edition of the newsletter

Debbie LeClair is a member of the First Spiritualist Church of Salem.

Editor's Note:

This series of articles is written by members of the First Spiritualist Church of Salem about what attracted them to Spiritualism and this church. Visit our new website at www.firstspiritualistsalem.org and share your thoughts about what you'd like to see on the website and read in the newsletter. Email at info@firstspiritualistsalem.org.

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glad tidings

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pastoral committee

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cm—certified medium cm



guild tidings '08

by pat cizewski, editor

Guild planning went into high gear and the spring and summer will prove to be exciting and fun times for church members and friends. As announced in this newsletter, February has been designated Raffle Month! Given the unpredictable nature of New England weather in February, the Guild decided to not schedule any special events until March. Instead, each Sunday will see at least one raffle held during the lunch between Sunday services. Bring your bills (dollars that is!) ... the more you play, the better your chances of winning! You can also buy chances for a 50/50 drawing throughout the entire month that will be drawn the last Sunday of February.

March 1st launches our annual Peace Week started by the Reverend Elizabeth Gosselin. The Guild has decided to continue the tradition and expand on its offerings. Saturday, March 1 will launch Peace Week with an all message service and spaghetti dinner and end with a Healer's Day wherein the church will be open on Saturday, March 8 to the public for healing much like a medium's day, except the laying on of hands asks for a free will donation. Alternative modalities (Reiki and therapeutic chair massage) will also be available by advanced appointment (\$20/20 minutes).

A Psychic Art workshop is scheduled with the Rev. Betty Gosselin for April 26 beginning at 2 pm. More details will be posted to the website and available in the March newsletter.

The spring ushers in a Medium's Day on May 10. Given its proximity to Mother's Day, why not give your the mother, or any friend or family member who is a mother, the gift of spirit and treat her to a reading and a healing that day?

A second trip to Lily Dale is being planned for the weekend of July 11: Victorian weekend and includes (by reservation and extra fee) a Victorian style séance. The Guild is making plans now, so if you are interested in making the trip to Lily Dale attend the Guild meetings and/or stay updated through the newsletter, flyers, and the church website at www.firstspiritualistsalem.org.

The next Guild meeting is Sunday, February 10 at 4 pm in Olmstead Hall. Please plan to attend. Bring your ideas...there is always room on the schedule for one more good idea!

declaration of principles

1. We believe in Infinite Intelligence.
2. We believe that the phenomena of nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of Infinite Intelligence.
3. We affirm that a correct understanding of such expression, and living in accordance therewith, constitute true religion.
4. We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death.
5. We affirm that communication with the so-called dead is a fact, scientifically proven by the phenomena of Spiritualism.
6. We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
7. We affirm the moral responsibility of individuals, and that we make our own happiness or unhappiness as we obey or disobey Nature's physical and spiritual laws.
8. We affirm that the doorway to reformation is never closed against any soul here or hereafter.
9. We affirm that the precepts of prophecy and healing are Divine attributes proven through mediumship.

Your feedback is encouraged.

Emails can be sent to info@firstspiritualistsalem.org with the subject line, To the Editor. You can also submit newsletter materials through this same email address.

president's report

by rev. bradley gosselin

In January the new church board and Pastoral Committee assumed their duties. The transition of duties to the new secretary and treasurer was completed.

February brings three holidays and an important meeting:

Feb. 2 Groundhog Day—important to our church.

Feb. 14 Valentine's Day—important to our members.

Feb. 18 President's Day—important to our country.

Each brings special meaning to us. Enjoy and celebrate with greater love and understanding of the true meaning of brotherhood.

The important meeting is Feb. 17 board meeting. This is to set the agenda for our semi annual members meeting on March 2 and there is much to be done. Times will be announced.

The installation of the carbon monoxide detectors to comply with the new city ordinance has been completed. In addition, the smoke alarms, exit signs, and the emergency lights have been updated.

The spring will bring new projects to be addressed. We own the building and the property and need to protect it. The back stairs need to be replaced; there is a lot of work needed to clean up the grounds. This is going to be expensive. We need your help both physically and supporting our guild fundraisers. Plans will be discussed at the members meeting.

The guild has some interesting and exciting programs scheduled. The information on guild activities can be found in this newsletter and on our website.

Please also note the new Pastoral Committee and board members. The new address of the secretary and the treasurer also.

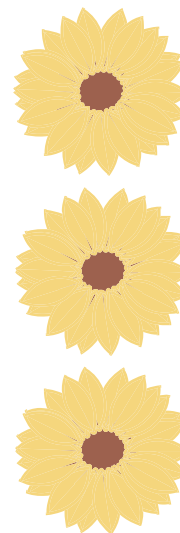
The board addresses the business of the church and the Pastoral Committee the Spiritual needs of the church. Please feel free to ask questions and voice your concerns.

In Love Light and Healing,
Rev. Brad Gosselin, NST
Church Board President

guild: february is raffle month!

Bring your dollars to church because February is raffle month!

Special item raffles will be held during the lunch each Sunday and a 50/50 raffle will be drawn at the end of the month.



2008 meeting schedule

board meetings

board and church members only

sunday, february 17, 8 pm

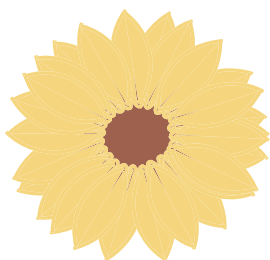
**members meeting:
march 3, time tba**

guild notes

**next meeting
sunday, february 10 at 4 pm
in olmstead hall
everyone is welcome!**

board of trustees

**rev. bradley gosselin, president
mary ciaramitaro, vice president
laurie drake, secretary
joyce de fazio, treasurer
patricia cizewski, trustee
naomi ellis, trustee
sue hinckley, trustee
gary hanson, trustee
david leclair, trustee**



Healing

If you know of someone who is in need of healing, please submit the name through our website at info@firstspiritualistsalem.org. Place "healing" in the subject line. Names that are submitted are forwarded to the healers of our church to be remembered in their healing meditations as well as being placed in our newsletter. Please take the time to send your healing thoughts and energy to those on our healing list:

for our loved ones

Amy Rose	Anthony	Brookie
Elizabeth	George	Helen
Howard P.	Jason	Jeff
Jen	Jim	Joan P.
John	Judy	Kayla
Kerry	Kim	Kristen
Kristen S.	Lynda	Marcia
Mark	Mary P.	Millie
Pauly	Peg	Phoebe
Phyllis & John		Raymond
Sandy	Stas	

And the homeless, may they have a hot meal and a warm and safe place to lay their heads.

And for our companion animals

Timmy (cat)
Louie (cat)
Breezy (horse)

For the transition to spirit of Pooh Bear (companion cat of Priscilla Herrick), Devo (companion dog of Steve Quintiliani), and Jitters (companion cat of Pat Cizewski).

the olmstead healing center

David LeClair, certified spiritualist healer
private healing by appointment only

28 riverside street

danvers

978-774-2559

prayer for spiritual healing

I ask the Great Unseen Healing Force to remove all obstructions from my mind and body and to Restore me to Perfect Health. I ask this in all Sincerity and Honesty, and I will do my part.

I ask this Great Unseen Healing Force to help both present and absent ones who are in need of help, and to restore them to perfect health. I put my Trust in the Love and Power of God.

healing services

Healing is available every Sunday evening beginning at 6:30 pm. The healing service begins with prayer and song followed by a meditation, at which time our healers are available to give healing through the laying-on-of-hands.

The congregation participates by contributing their own healing thoughts and prayers during the meditation and in sending absent healing to those whose names have been placed in the healing book.



pastoral committee

in the midst of winter

*by priscilla herrick, cm
pastoral committee member*

Here we are in the midst of winter; a time when so much of nature appears to lie dormant. The trees are bare, the days are short, the ground is frozen and in many places still covered with snow or ice. We look around and wonder if spring will ever come.

When will we awake to hear the first chirpings of birds outside our windows?

When will we awake to see bright sunlight streaming in instead of waking to the darkness of night?

When oh when will the life we long for begin to stir once again and bring its warmth and vitality into our daily lives?

This is the way of winter in New England.

But what about within ourselves?

Those long stretches when we wonder if we are making any strides in our own growth and progression. Like all things of nature, both physical and spiritual, there are periods of seeming dormancy. Progress seems to be on hold and we wonder what we have missed in our efforts to synchronize ourselves to the ebb and flow of Natural Law. Days seem long and we find ourselves often buffeted by conditions outside of ourselves that we seemingly have no control over.

It has always been at times like these that I remind myself of the affirmation that we say in our class and of the choice we have to implement it in multiple ways into our daily lives. It states, "I refuse to be influenced by any spirit below me in mind or in character."

Taking it a step further, we might say:

"I refuse to allow the divine spirit within me to be minimized by the transitory conditions of this temporary earthly journey," or...

"I refuse to allow the weaknesses and negativity of a swirling populace to draw me in and diminish my certainty of wonderful possibilities yet to be realized."

or

"I refuse to allow moments of uncertainty to take hold and obliterate the knowledge that today's shadows are only passing clouds."

Our lives are part of nature and like nature we can see, if we look closely enough, that the patterns of our lives provide us with ample opportunity for what appear to be growth, progression and above all, great joy.

The challenges that we face can bring us moments of "spiritual hibernation," but if we apply the wonderful teachings that have been ours to share, the wonderful knowledge of our spiritual potential and the eternal observation of natural law in motion, we emerge with greater strength, greater insight and greater understanding of ourselves, and this glorious journey that is ours to experience.

Those little green shoots that have begun to emerge amid the snow and ice in my garden are reminders that there will soon be an abundance of color and beauty. Lo and behold, they have not been dormant and idle, but have merely been gathering strength for the next opportunity to burst forth. The same opportunities apply to our lives if we but allow ourselves to align our thoughts and behaviors in accordance with our highest understanding of the natural laws.

Now is the time to let yourself dare to blossom with all the beauty and potential of your spiritual self.

peace week

march 1 through march 8

**saturday, march 1
all message service &
spaghetti dinner, 5:30 pm**

**saturday, march 8
healer's day
noon to 4 pm**

see flyers for more details and check the website for updates

www.firstspiritualistsalem.org

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sunday services

all services are open to the public
newcomers welcome

student service

5:30 pm

students enrolled in development class demonstrate mediumship by inspirational speaking and spirit greetings. a light lunch is served following the early student service.

regular service

begins with healing at 6:30 pm

featured guest speaker and message medium schedule as follows:

february 3

patricia cizewski

february 10

april sheerin

february 17

nancy karolides, cm

february 24

jason mcCuish

saturday, march 1: peace week begins

all message service & spaghetti dinner

5:30 p.m.

march 2

rev. steve herman

e v e n t s

saturdays, the drawing room

private readings with spirit-inspired drawings by the rev. elizabeth gosselin, nst.

by appointment only
call 978-774-1571

monday circles

held one monday per month, space is limited to 12 participants.

call 978-774-1571 for the schedule and to reserve your place.

circles are conducted by the rev. elizabeth gosselin and nancy karolides, cm.

for more information about the church or the religion of spiritualism contact:

info@firstspiritualistsalem.org

all emails are read

